

*PYRRHIDIUM SANGUINEUM* L. AND *CRIOCEPHALUS RUSTICUS* L. (COL.: LONGICORNIA) IN MONMOUTHSHIRE. — During 1979 these two rare Longicorn Beetles were noted in Monmouthshire and, as far as I am able to ascertain, neither species had previously been recorded from the county.

On June 26th whilst searching for beetles in a wood in the east of the county I found a single specimen of *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* L. sitting on the herbage at the side of a ride. Joy (1932, Pract. Hanb. Brit. Beetles, I: 381) describes its occurrence as "very rare" and gives the distribution as "Britain". On the other hand Fowler (1890, Col. Brit. Isl., 4: 224), under its name of *Callidium sanguineum* L. cites early records from London, North Wales, Exeter, and Plaistow and also gives its occurrence as "very rare". Apparently this species is currently found very locally in the neighbouring county of Herefordshire.

It is interesting to note that this wood produced several other species of Longicorns including *Rhagium mordax* De G., *Stenochorus meridianus* Pz., *Pachytodes cerambyciformis* Schr., *Leptura maculata* Poda, *L. quadrifasciata* L., *L. melanura* L., and *Clytus arietis* L. Also among many other interesting beetles found in this same wood were *Platystomus albinus* L., *Elater cinnabarinus* Esch., *Pyrochroa coccinea* L., *P. serraticornis* Scop., *Melandrya caraboides* L., and *Trichius fasciatus* L.

On the night of 27th July a specimen of *Criocephalus rusticus* L. entered my m.v. moth trap in my garden at Usk. This rare Longicorn is apparently associated with pines and is of mainly Scottish distribution. However, according to Fowler and Donisthorpe (1913, Col. Brit. Isl., 6: 152) it is sometimes imported in timber and they refer to a Welsh record of one being found in a coal-mine, it being assumed that it was introduced in pit-props. It should be noted that there are no coal-mines in this area and although there is a saw-mills in the vicinity it deals only with locally-grown timber. — DR. G. A. NEIL HORTON, Plas Newydd, Usk, Gwent.

THE EARLY THORN: *SELENIA BILUNARIA* ESP. AND PARthenogenesis. — On 12th May 1979 I took a worn female Early Thorn at m.v. light which obligingly produced a large batch of eggs. Not being a particularly difficult species to rear, a great proportion of larvae pupated on 4th June. Approximately half the number were housed in my puparium, the remaining fifty per cent being placed in separate cages, isolated from contact with any amorous lepidopteron that may have cared to quiver its antennae in their general direction. All imagines emerged successfully between the 23rd and 27th July, the specimens in the puparium pairing readily.

I was, therefore, not in the least surprised when, several days later, eggs began to appear on the netting and glass sides. Curiously, ova also carpeted the cage of a lone virgin female moth. I had no reason to dispute her chastity and immediately discarded the absurd notion that her mate could have been so cunning and deceitful as to have left no trace of his visit, carefully replacing the lid on his departure as he had found it.